

The Dead Horse DISPATCH

July 2009

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park



Dominic Castillo & Joe Perez display their catch.

Free Fishing Derby

Fish & Game fishing clinic was held on June 13th, at the lagoons. No fishing licenses were needed.

Poles, bait, & tackle were provided. The Mr. Fish truck arrived on June 10th, 2 1/2 days before Free Fishing Day. Mr. Fish (right) dropped 1000 pounds of channel catfish (approx. 500 fish) into the middle lagoon. By noon on June 13th,



submitted by Ranger Randy

nearly 500 fishermen had arrived at the Los Alamos Day Use Area to participate in the event, which was a partnership of Arizona Game & Fish, the US Forest Service, and Arizona State Parks.

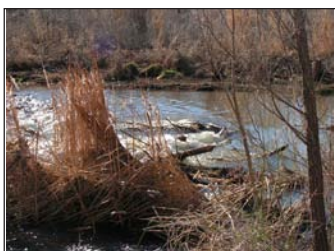
DHRSP Plein Air "Paint Out"

was held on June 6, at 8 am – Noon. Plein Air "paint outs" are an open invitation to all artists, amateur and professional, to paint the treasures of AZ State Parks. Artists brought their easels, brushes, drop cloths, and canvas and gathered around the lagoons to capture scenes. Afterward, the artists judged their peers' completed work.

Undoing the Busy Beaver



It is a constant struggle to keep park paths from flooding, thanks to the beavers we have living here. Volunteers have a hard time keeping up with the clogged drains and backed up waterways. The beaver is very busy.



DEAD HORSE!!



Joan Grey took the picture above at Trail Horse Adventures. Apparently the recent high winds knocked over their horse... so... is our new official "Dead Horse".

submitted by Ranger Eric

Splitting News!



The Woodsplitter was purchased by the volunteers of DHRSP.

submitted by Bob Akey



Birds of Prey

If you missed the program "Unique Birds of Prey of Arizona," with Russ Smith & his friends May 22, you missed a wonderful program... presented in the rain. We were entertained by: a baby javelina named Josalina, that wandered around visiting everyone in the front row and a very noisy Raven that talked throughout the speakers talk. The highlight of the evening was the release of the newest member to our park, a very large great horned owl. He stayed with us thru the whole program and flew into the large pine tree behind Frank-n-Rose.

submitted by Pam Sanor

Volunteer News

Coming & Goings

* Hal & Ruth Stoddard are leaving July 1st to Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Dates to Remember

June

29 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway

July

4 - 4th of July potluck at Ramada #5 (Fishing Lagoon area) on Saturday July 4th @ 5:00 pm. Food should be served around 6 pm.

13 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway

27 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway

July Milestones

(Birthdays & Anniversaries)

2-Helen Kemp

6-Bud & Loma Jenkins (1986)

9-Ray Serba

16-John Ward

21-Maryann Harris

23-Carolyn McCartney

James Dunn was honored on May 20th, with the "Unsung Hero Award", which he received because he is "an amazing man and he deserves the recognition." 88 years old, Jim runs every day, volunteers at DHRSP and VV Medical Center.



3UKs !!!



Carolyn, We do enjoy the DHRSP newsletter and especially like getting the "real thing". I am enclosing my 44 Cent stamps to cover the cost of postage for 1 year. We hope to return to DHR next April. Thanks for all your work in providing the newsletter. Roger & Carolyn McCartney

Hello to Everyone. Eric, hope you are well. We are on the road for the next few months. Hope to get to Washington and Oregon this year. Not that far from AZ, so you never know what we'll do. Muriel & George Boucher



From the Park Manager:

DHRSP continues to set visitation and revenue records

In May DHR posted the highest limited annual pass sales and the second highest camping revenues in the agency (Fool Hollow was highest). We were third in visitation behind Lake Havasu, Patagonia, and Slide Rock. Lake Havasu is predominately day use with most visitors out on the lake and Slide Rock has no camping. As you know hosting visitors at a 24 hour park is more involved than with visitors who spend a few hours, then leave.

Our visitors like what we provide. It couldn't be done without a dedicated and competent volunteer force. Thanks for all that you do, from the rangers and the visitors too.

On a side note: The wood splitter you provided has been a godsend. Your wood sales can now continue to support the volunteer program. *Les*

Annual Passholders Make State Parks Their 2nd Home

Here at DHRSP, we sell a lot of Annual Passes. Ready access to clean restrooms, picnic areas, a large volunteer staff, and dedicated rangers also attract a few "regulars". Here's the story behind three of our typical annual passholders.

****Laura Walker** is here almost every day. She's writing a book and works in Cottonwood, so when she gets some time, she makes a beeline here to the park. "I come here for the joy of it. It's all about joy. DHR is a part of my extraordinary life!"

****Mac Torrez** is familiar with our parks, and with park rangers in general... his son is a National Parks Service ranger in Washington, D.C. At 72 and retired, Mac never misses a day. In fact, he often makes two or three trips to the park in a single day. Mac is well known among the rangers and volunteers for the walking sticks and rocks he paints with images of Kokopelli and the animals found here at the park. "I love the people, Rangers, hosts... they're good people," says Mac. "I tell other folks to come here, it's beautiful. If you're having problems, come here. They'll all go away."

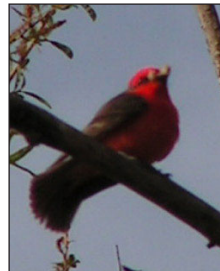
****Lee Gorby** is a rarity. At 56, Gorby works out every day, and then heads out to ride the Thumper Loop. Lee, also known as the Whiskey Rider, has ridden the 7.77-mile loop every day for the past year. Part of his routine is a single shot of quality whiskey after each ride. Lee rides no matter what the weather: blazing heat, driving rain, even hail has not kept him away! On the occasion of his 365th consecutive day, Lee's loved ones stood at the trail's end with a banner proclaiming the occasion and presented him with a plaque commemorating his achievement. When asked how he did it, Lee said he only set out to ride thirty days in a row. Thirty days later, he decided to do it again. By setting small goals and sticking to them, Lee passed the 200-day mark and kept going. Lee said, "Well, I guess the next one's going to be 400 (days in-a-row)." There's definitely something to be said for getting your money's worth by buying an AZ State Parks Annual Pass!

submitted by Ranger Randy

Who Knows This One?



These bright pink blooms were found during a March hike in Sycamore Canyon. Can anyone identify the plant?



This bird was sighted at DHRSP. Can anyone identify this bird?



This arm appeared at the Ranger's Station. Can anyone guess who it belongs to? Rumor has it that things are going well. With physical therapy 4x's a week for 3 hours each session, the fingers are beginning to behave themselves.